

Date:

'Tourists'

U. S. CLAIMS DUSTED MEN NOT SPYING

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WASHINGTON (AP)—The State Department said today it is satisfied that Harvey C. Bennett and Mark I. Kaminsky, detained in



EXPELLED American students Mark I. Kaminsky, 28, (front) and Harvey C. Bennett, 26,

Russia for several weeks and just released, were legitimate tourists.

Soviet authorities accused Kaminsky of spying and sentenced him to seven years, then expelled both men.

State Department press officer Joseph Reap was asked at a news conference what he would say about a published report that the two men were under contract with the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency to report on "their observations in the Soviet Union."

"The only comment I can make," said Reap, "is that we are absolutely satisfied that Mr. Bennett and Mr. Kaminsky were bonafide tourists."

Kaminsky and Bennett of Tracy, Calif., said they traveled to Russia under scholarships of \$2,000 each from the Northcraft Educational Fund, Philadelphia. Tass, the Soviet news agency has called Northcraft a "spy organization."

The Internal Revenue Service said Northcraft is not a tax-exempt educational organization.